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Examiner: A. Etienne

Proposed Amendment No. 2 - Claim 1

1. A method for transmitting a data stream between a host controller and a peripheral device over an extended distance; said method comprising:

- a. feeding a first original, outgoing digital signal from a host controller to a local expander unit;
- b. [optionally] converting said first original outgoing digital signal[s] into a converted outgoing signal, or using said first original outgoing digital signal as an outgoing signal, which outgoing signal or converted outgoing signal has [having] a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;
- c. transmitting either said outgoing [digital] signal or said converted outgoing signal, as a outgoing transmission signal, over a signal distribution system;
- d. receiving said outgoing transmission signal at a remote expander unit;
- e. [optionally] converting said outgoing transmission signal to re-create said first original outgoing digital signal, or using said outgoing transmission signal [to] as said first original outgoing digital signal;
- f. delivering said first original outgoing digital signal from said remote expander to at least one peripheral device;
- g. receiving, at said remote expander, a reply digital signal from said peripheral device;
- h. [optionally] converting said reply digital signal into a converted reply signal, or using said reply digital signal as a reply signal, which reply signal or converted reply signal has [having] a format suitable for transmission over extended distances;
- i. transmitting either said reply [digital] signal or said converted reply signal as a reply transmission signal over said signal distribution system;
- j. receiving said reply transmission signal at said local expander;
- k. [optionally] converting said reply transmission signal to re-create said reply digital signal, or using said reply transmission signal as said [original] reply digital signal;
- l. storing said reply digital signal as a stored reply digital signal until the receipt of a subsequent original, outgoing digital signal from said host controller, which subsequent signal is the same as, or similar to, said first original outgoing digital signal; and
- m. forwarding said stored reply digital signal to said host controller in response to said subsequent original outgoing digital signal.

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